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LONG ASHTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1939.



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
YEAR 1939

Medical Officer of Health - Herbert Newsome, M.B., B.S.
Sanitary Inspector - E.T.H. Hawkins, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.
2nd Sanitary Inspector - B. Barker, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.
3rd Sanitary Inspector - H.G. Teal, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.

To the Chairman and Members
of the Long Ashton Rural District Council.

Sir, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary condition of the District during the past year.

The information therein is, as far as possible, in conformity with the requirements of the Minister of Health, as laid down in Circular 1961.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area: 46,515 acres.

Population (Census 1931): 20,378.

Population (Registrar General's Estimate:-

{ a) to the middle of 1939: 20,060.

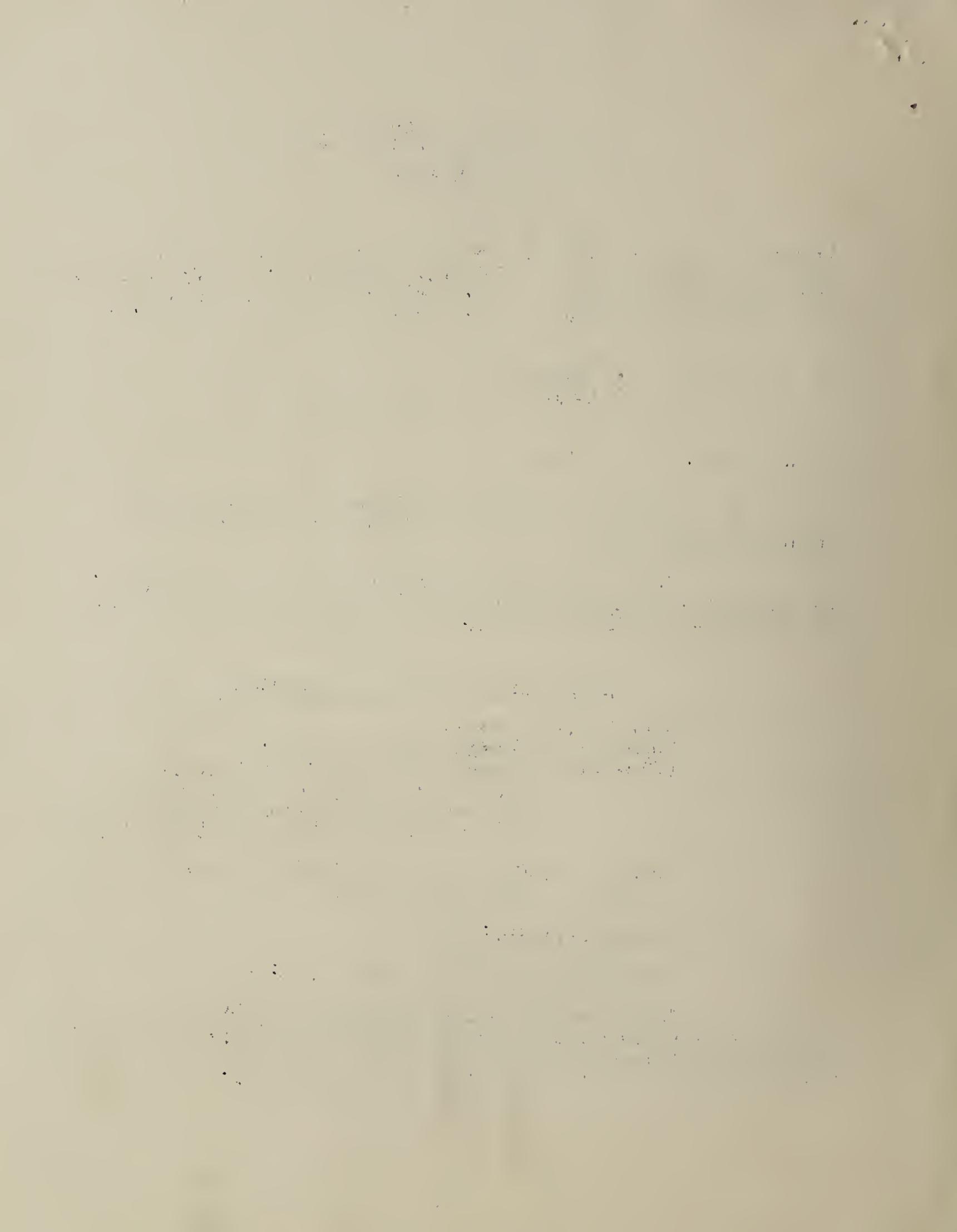
{ b) Average Population appropriate to
the calculation of death rates: 21,090.

Number of Inhabited Houses (End of 1939) according to
Rate Books: 6391.

Rateable Value: £168,558.

Sum represented by a penny rate: 672.

There are no important changes to note in the social conditions or general characteristics of the area, except that the district is classed as a "Reception Area" for Evacuation purposes, which subject is dealt with later in this report.



VITAL STATISTICS.

		Total.	M.	F.)	
Live Births-Legitimate	...	272	125	147	Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated population Mid-1959: 13.9.
Illegitimate	..	7	?	5	
Totals	..	279	127	152	

Still Births-Legitimate	...	18	7	11	Still birth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births: 60.6.
Illegitimate	..	—	—	—	
		18	7	11	

DEATHS.

Total. M. F.) Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population: 9.7.

Deaths from puerperal causes (headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar General's short list):

		Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births
29--Puerperal Sepsis	...	Nil	
30-- Other Puerperal Causes	Nil		Nil.

Death Rates of Infants under 1 year of age: Total deaths: 4
 " " all Infants per 1,000 live births; 13.4.
 " " legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births: 14.7.
 " " illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births: Nil.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 37
 " " Measles (all ages) Nil
 " " Whooping Cough (all ages) ... 1
 " " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) Nil.

The total number of births 279, is 16 less than last year, (295).

The birth rate 13.9 compares unfavourably with that for last year (14.12).

The rate for England and Wales this year is 15.0.

The total number of deaths (205) is 35 less than last year.

The death rate (9.7) is much lower than last year (13.7).

The rate for England and Wales this year is 12.1.

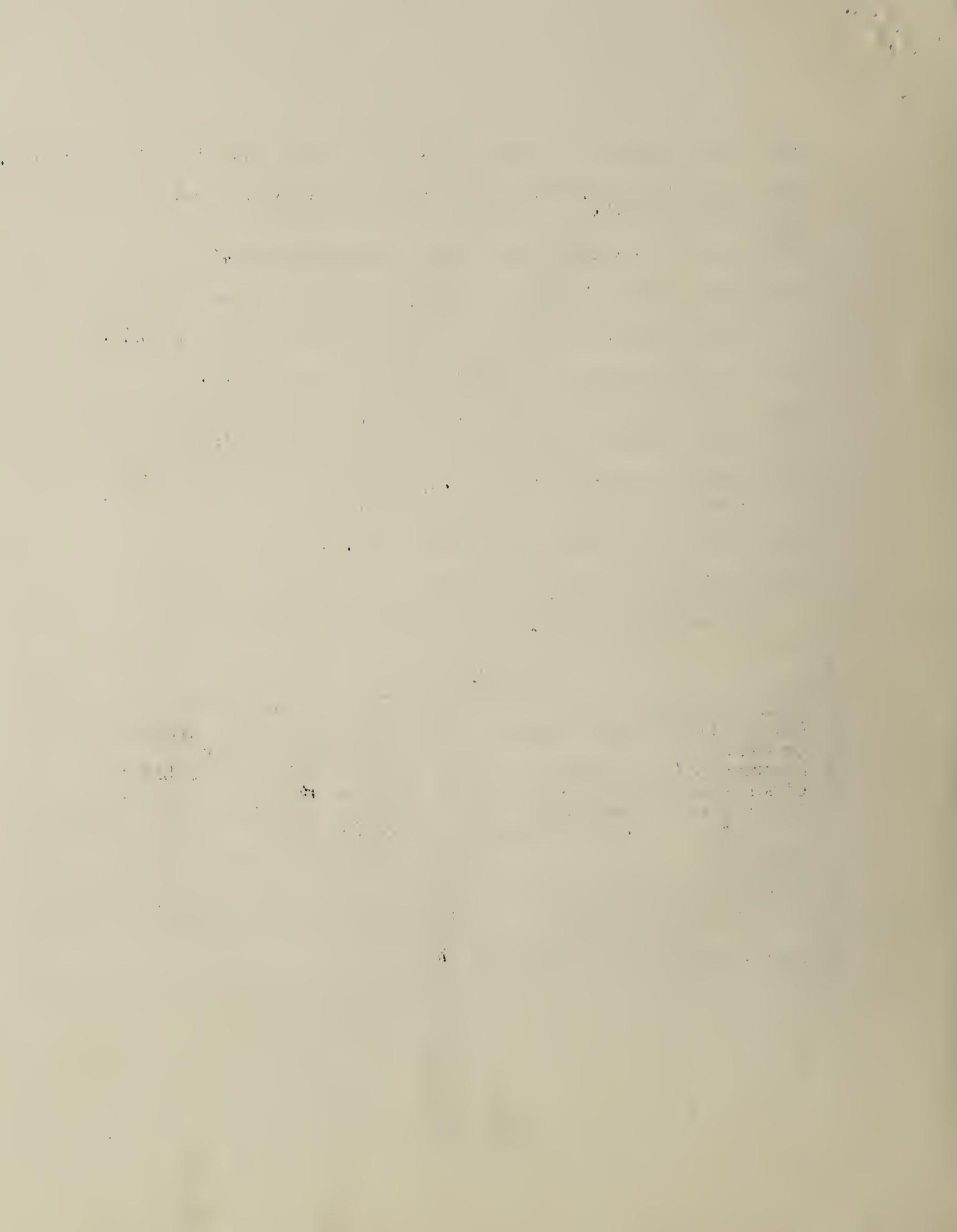
The number of persons who died at over 70 years of age is 123, of whom 7 were over 90, the eldest being 94.

The infant mortality rate 13.4, compares very favourably with the rate for last year (37.28).

The rate for England and Wales is 50.0.

Of the deaths of infants under 1 year of age, 3 were due to congenital defects, or premature birth, and 1 to whooping cough.

CAUSES OF DEATH		
Heart disease	63	Peptic Ulcer
Other circulatory diseases	9	Other digestive diseases
Bronchitis	9	Cirrhosis of Liver
Pneumonia (all forms)	2	Other diseases of Liver
Other respiratory diseases	2	Diarrhoea (over 2 years)
Tuberculosis (pulmonary " (other forms)	2 1	Cancer (Malignant Diseases)
Influenza	4	Senility
Whooping Cough	1	Congenital Debility and premature birth
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	Violence (accidents, etc)
Cerebral Haemorrhage and Embolism	16	Other Defined Diseases.
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	7	



PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Notifiable Diseases.

Disease	Notifications	Removed to Hospital	Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	34	27	-
Diphtheria	10	8	-
Erysipelas	5	-	-
Anterior Poliomyelitis	1	1	-
Enteric Fever	1 para-typhoid	-	-
Pneumonia	20	3	2
Whooping Cough	10	-	1
TOTALS	81	39	3

There has been no extensive outbreak of any of the infectious diseases this year. The number of cases of Scarlet Fever was two less than last year, but there has been a considerable decrease in the number of Diphtheria notifications, and no deaths. Since the declaration of war, Measles and Whooping Cough have been made compulsorily notifiable in all Districts, but there have been few cases of these diseases in this area up to the end of the year.

The case notified as Meningitis proved to be a case of Cerebral Abscess from which the child died.

The arrangement with the Bristol Authority to take all cases from this area, has been of great convenience and there has so far been no difficulty whatever in getting cases removed to Ham Green Hospital from any part of the area.

TUBERCULOSIS.

	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Total.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Notifications	...	8	5	-	5
Deaths	...	2	-	-	1

The number of notifications is 1 less than last year.

The number of deaths is 7 less than last year.

There is nothing to complain of as to neglect of notifications and there has been no necessity to take action under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulation, 1925, or under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

Health visiting and Sanitorium treatment are under the control of the County Authority, as are the Tuberculosis Dispensaries in this area, which are now at the Central Health Clinic, Bristol, and at Clevedon.

Tuberculosis Notifications and Deaths in Age Periods.

Age Periods	Notifications				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	I.	F	M	F
1st Year								
1 to 5 Years								
5 to 15 "	3	1			2			1
15 to 25 "	2	3			2			
25 to 35 "	1	1			1			
35 to 45 "								
45 to 55 "	1							
55 to 65 "	1							
65 and over	-							
 Totals	8	5	5	2			1	

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT.

Legislation in Force in the Area.

The Ministry of Health Circular 2067 recently received, states that owing to increasing pressure of work in Public Health Departments, and the need for strict economy in the use of paper, reports should be confined to urgent and essential matters, and as there are no changes in this district in matters coming under the above headings, I propose to omit this section and to refer you to previous reports in which full details have been given.

WATER SUPPLY.

On the whole, this Rural District is well provided with water, there having been no complaints of shortage of water during the year.

The public supplies owned by this Council are examined bacteriologically every three months at least. All samples taken during the year were found to be free from contamination. Other public supplies in the area are also examined periodically and have all been found satisfactory. Seventeen samples of water from non-public supplies have also been taken during the year for bacteriological examination and appropriate action has been taken when necessary.

During the year the following matters have been dealt with or are under consideration:-

North Weston. The Portishead and District Water Company's mains have been extended from the Portishead Boundary to the Weston Road and Honeylands portion of this Parish. This will also provide the supply to the Council's new Housing Estate at Weston Road. The previous supply to houses in this neighbourhood was from wells, mostly badly polluted.

Nailssea. Negotiations have been proceeding with the Bristol Water Works Company, with a view to getting the Company's mains extended to the Grove and West End portions of the Parish.

Kingston Seymour. The scheme to supply the Parish from the Council's Yatton Parochial supply has been under consideration during this year, but no definite decision has yet been arrived at.

Yatton. Owing to the proximity of the cesspool of the Engineer's House at the Pumping Station, to the borehole, the house has been connected to the main sewer, in order to safeguard the borehole supply. This necessitated extending the sewer for about a quarter of a mile. The cesspool has now been abolished.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

North Weston. The sewerage scheme for the Weston Road and Honeylands portion of the Parish, which was the subject of a Ministry of Health enquiry during the previous year has been commenced and should be completed in 1940. The scheme involves the construction of a sewage filtration system.

Long Ashton. A sewage scheme with filtration plant has been provided for the drainage of Cambridge House Institution, the dwelling houses attached thereto, and the Police Stations and Police Cottages.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

There has been marked improvement in the condition of the streams in this District in recent years. No serious fresh pollutions have been observed lately, and it is anticipated that one of the few cases of stream pollution still existing, viz:- North Weston, will be eradicated on the completion of the Weston Road sewage scheme above mentioned.

The improvement of water courses has been most marked at Yatton, where the provision of a sewerage system has done much to reduce the pollution of rhines and ditches.

Public Cleansing.	}	
Smoke Abatement.	}	There is nothing fresh to report in these matters.
Swimming Baths and Pools.	}	
Eradication of Bed Bugs.	}	

CAMPING SITES.

Approximately 60 sites in the area are used as Camping Grounds. Nine of these are licenced by the Council under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936. Conditions with regard to water supply, sanitary accommodation, density, etc. are attached to each licence granted. Many of the sites are only used at week-ends during the summer months. Most of them are at Redcliffe Bay, and Walton Bay, on land bordering on and overlooking the Bristol Channel. The sites are usually found to be well kept, and there has been little cause for complaint.

SCHOOLS.

There are 25 in the area, and all are in satisfactory condition.

SANITARY INSPECTION.

The staff consists of 3 Sanitary Inspectors and 1
Clerical Assistant.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT for the year 1939.

Long Ashton Rural District, Somerset.

	{ No. of Complaints received during the year	54
	{ No. of Houses, Premises, etc., inspected	1856
INSPECTIONS	{ No. of Re-Visits to see that work has been carried out, or for other reasons.	1149
	{ No. of Houses Disinfected, or to which Disinfectants were supplied.	51
	{ No. of Visits to cases of Infectious Disease.	15
	{ Tuberculosis-Disinfections 6, Visits 7	
SEWERS	{ No of New Sewers laid down by Builder	2
	{ No. of Sewers Cleansed or Repaired	8
	{ No. of Visits to Sewage Works, Cesspools, etc.	180
House Drains	{ No. of Existing Houses Connected to Sewers	7
	{ No. Repaired or Cleansed.	12
	{ No. Relaid (piped)	7
	{ No. of New Pipe Drains Laid	236

	{ No. of Privies abolished	7
EARTH	{ No. of Cesspools Cleansed or Re-constructed	10
CLOSETS,	{ No. of New Cesspools	69
CESSPOOLS,	{ No. of Cesspools abolished	11
and	{ No. of New W.C.'s (not including new houses)	23
W.C.'s	{ No. of New W.C. Pans or Repairs	11
	{ No. of New E.C.'s Constructed	2
	{ No. of E.C.'s converted into W.C.'s	6
NEW	{ No. of New Houses Completed and Occupied	184
HOUSES	{ No. of New Houses supplied by Company's Water	180
	{ No. of New Houses supplied by Wells or Cisterns	4
	{ No. of Samples of Water taken for Examination	21
WATER	{ No. of Existing Houses supplied with Company's Water	12
SUPPLY	{ No. of New Wells	2
	{ No. of Wells or Cisterns Cleansed or Repaired	5
	No. of Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk Shops Inspected	392
	No. of Bakehouses Inspected	18
	No. of Slaughter-houses Inspected	11
	No. of Factories Inspected	84

No. of Statutory Notices Served -

Ministry of Health Enquiries held 1

Legal Proceedings taken 4

HOUSING.

The Housing Committee were, until the outbreak of the war, very fully occupied in dealing with the many problems of slum-clearance, re-housing and reconditioning.

Forty-two houses were erected and completed by the Council during the year, to re-house persons from unfit and overcrowded houses. Eighteen houses were in course of erection at the end of the year.

One hundred and eighty-four houses were erected by private enterprise.

HOUSES ERECTED DURING 1939.

PARISH.	BY PRIVATE PERSONS.	BY COUNCIL.	IN COURSE OF ERECTION BY COUNCIL AT END OF YEAR.
ABBOTS LEIGH	4	-	-
BACKWELL	4	-	-
BISHOPSWORTH	20	-	-
BROCKLEY	2	-	-
CLAPTON-IN-GORDANO	1	-	-
DUNDRY	1	-	-
EASTON-IN-GORDANO	4	10	-
Total carried forward:-	36	10	-

Houses Erected During 1939. (continued) :-

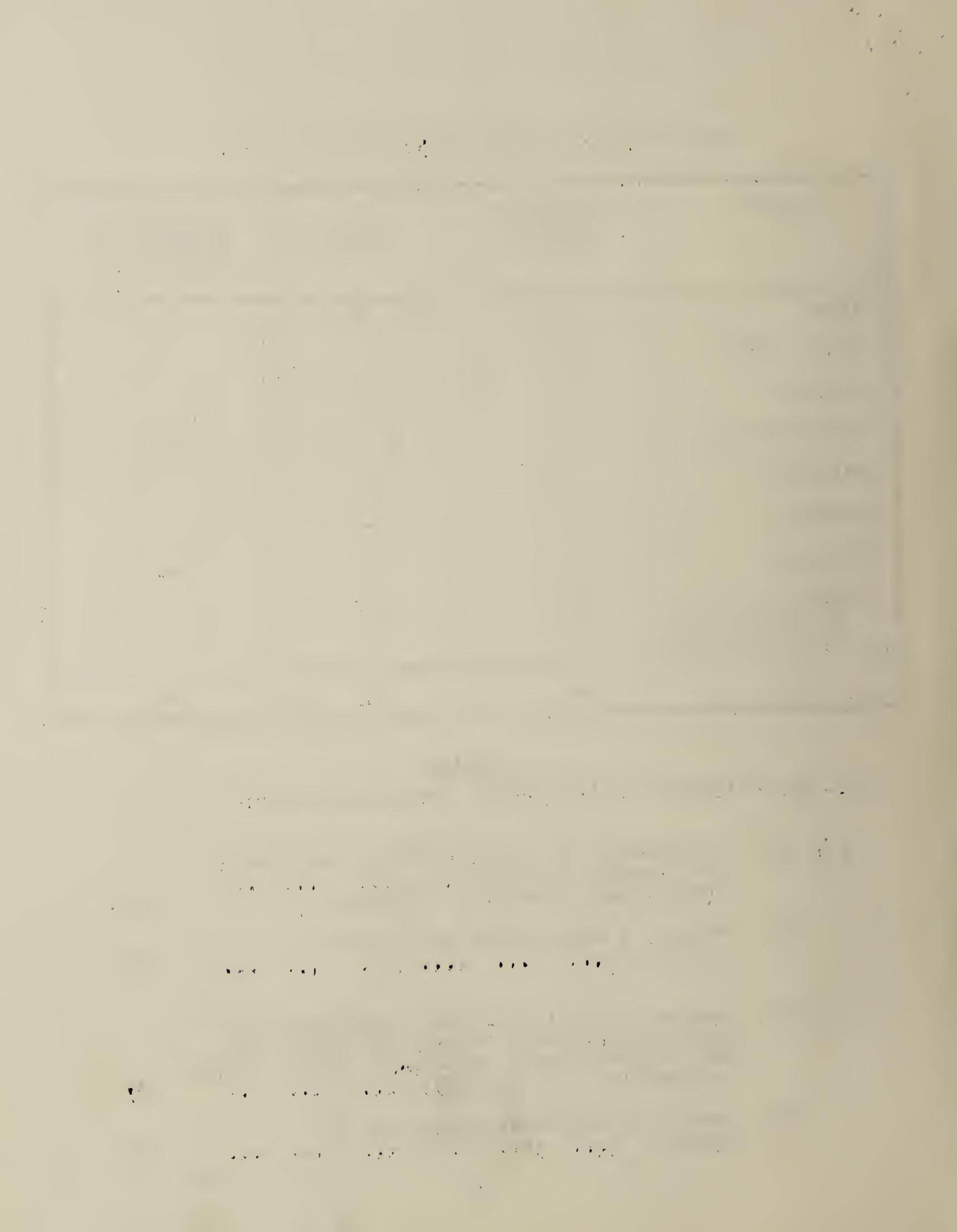
PARISH	BY PRIVATE PERSONS.	BY COUNCIL.	IN COURSE OF ERECTION BY COUNCIL AT END OF YEAR.
KENN	--	4	-
LONG ASHTON	53	-	-
NAILSEA	6	22	-
NORTH WESTON	1	-	18
TICKENHAM	9	-	-
WINFORD	2	-	-
WRAXALL	8	-	-
YATTON	69	6	-
Total from the Previous Page:	36	10	--
T O T A L	184	42	18

HOUSING

1.- Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:-

- (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... 129
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 196

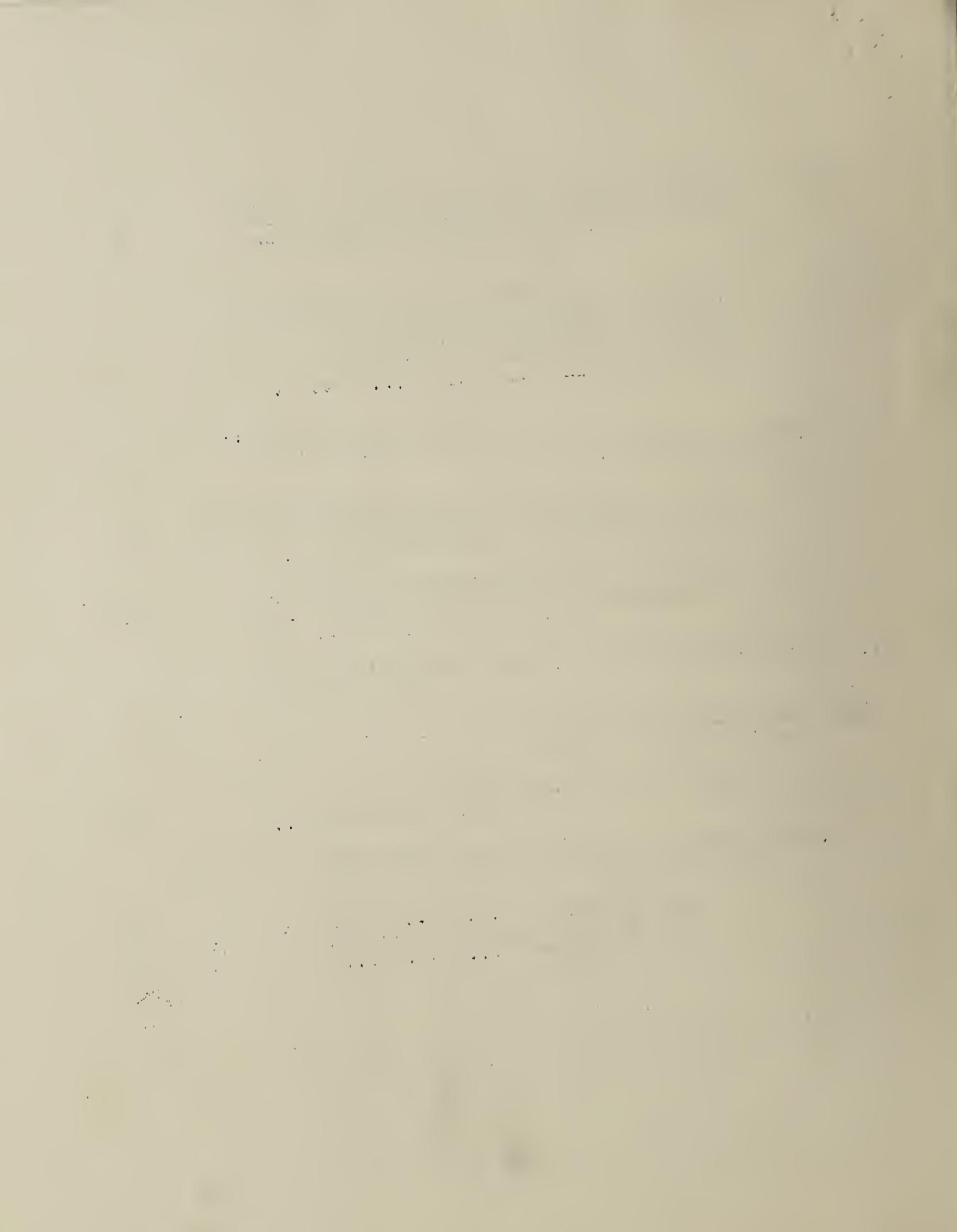
- (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations 1925 and 1932 74
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 113



(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	9
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	34
2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal notices:-		
(a)	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ...	23
(b)	Number of houses demolished voluntarily or in consequence of informal action ...	Nil

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-

(A)	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.	
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs...	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-	
(a)	By owners	Nil
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil



(B)- Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	NIL
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-	
(a) By owners	NIL
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	NIL

(C)- Proceedings under Section 11, 13, and 26 of
the Housing Act, 1936:-

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	1
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	8
(3) (a) Clearance Orders made	NIL
(b) Number of houses involved	NIL
(4) Clearance Orders confirmed	NIL
(a) Number of houses involved	NIL
(b) Number of houses demolished	3
(c) Number of houses to be demolished ...	37

(D)- Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing
Act, 1936:-

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	NIL
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been made fit	NIL

4.- Housing Act, 1936.- Overcrowding:-

(A) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	7
(II) Number of families dwelling therein.	7
(III) Number of persons dwelling therein..	47
· (B) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	NIL
(C) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	14
(II) Number of persons concerned in such cases	99
(D) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling- houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	NIL

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MEAT.

The following meat was condemned during the year as
being unfit for human consumption:-

Beef. 4 whole carcases and organs - 328 lbs. beef.

Sheep. 2 whole carcases and organs.

Pigs. 1 whole carcase and organs.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES. There are 11 private slaughter-houses, all of which are carried on in a satisfactory manner. Nine are registered and 2 are licensed.

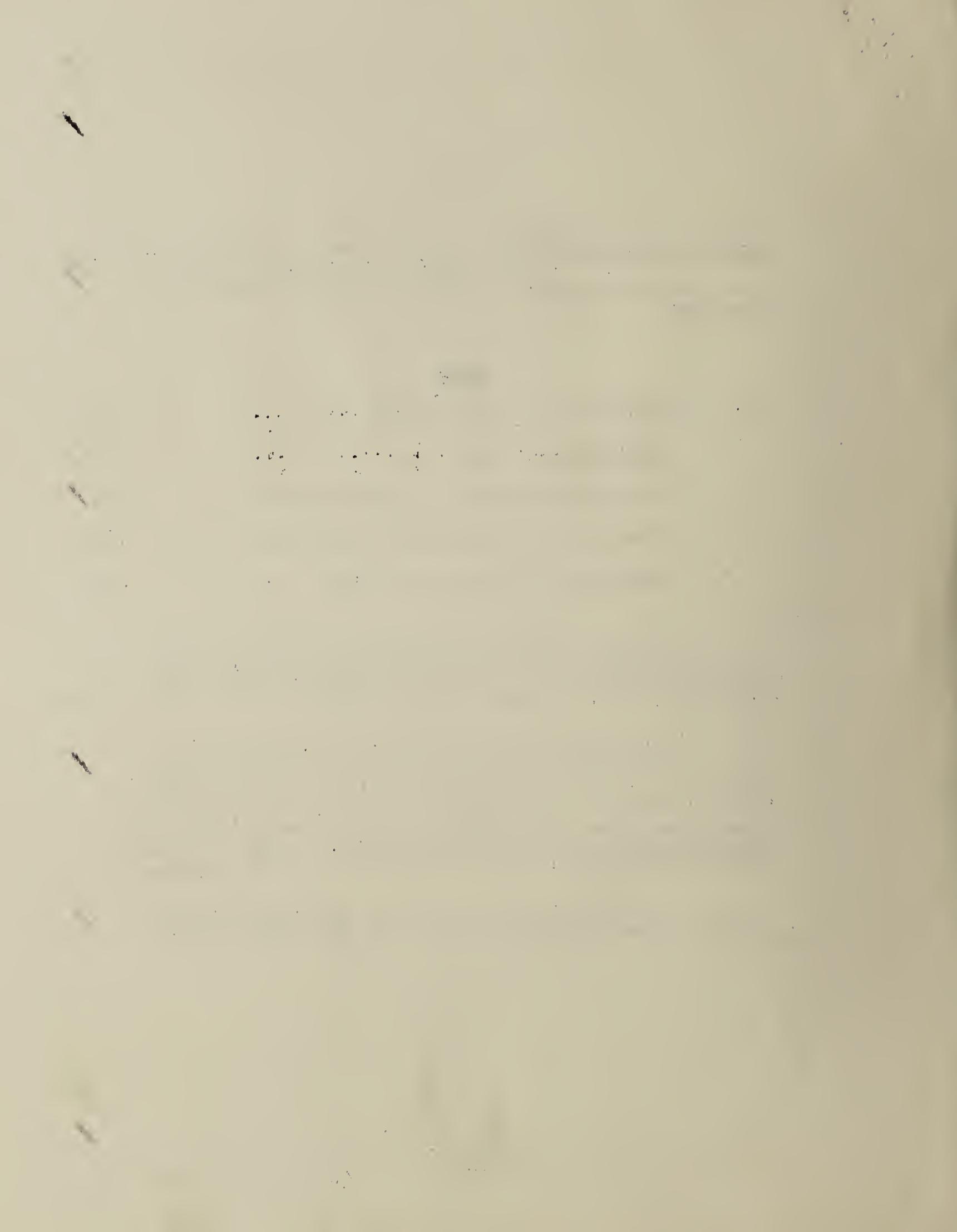
MILK.

No. of Producers on the Register	332
" Distributors only	22
" Distributors who are also Producers			57
" Producers of Tuberculin Tested Milk			19
" Producers of Accredited Milk	...		28

In this District the principal collectors of milk are the Bristol Co-operative Society, the London Co-operative Society, the Bristol Pure Milk Co., and Messrs. Hornby's Dairies Ltd.

During the year 81 samples of Accredited Milk and 86 samples of Tuberculin Tested Milk were taken on behalf of the County Council and examined at the County Laboratory. 29 samples of Mixed Milk were also taken and examined at the County Laboratory for the presence of tubercle bacilli. The presence of tubercle bacilli was found in one of the samples.

During the year four new cowsheds have been erected, and improvements made to two other sheds.



EVACUATION.

On the outbreak of war, Evacuation of large numbers of women and children from London and other large centres of population was commenced, and between September 1st and 4th, 4131 Evacuees came to this District, and on December 16th 57 more arrived. The majority of these were unaccompanied children with teachers and helpers, but there was a small number of women and their children.

As the expected Air Raids on the Large Cities did not take place at once, the Evacuees began to gradually return to their homes, and by the end of the year the numbers had shrunk to 1668. These consisted of 1334 unaccompanied children, 65 mothers with 143 children, 99 teachers and 27 helpers.

There has been very little serious illness amongst the Evacuees and no large outbreak of infectious disease that can be attributed to them, but a considerable amount of trouble arose, however, from verminous conditions of a number of the children, and there were also a number of cases of Scabies. There were also a good many children suffering from bad habits - chiefly "bedwetters" and some usually described as "difficult children". As regards the verminous head cases, medical inspection of all children and vigorous treatment at and in their billets soon reduced this trouble to reasonable proportions, but the "difficult children" and Scabies were more awkward problems, and it was decided to requisition "The Grange", Flax Bourton, and equip it as a "Sick Bay" for their treatment. Unfortunately, after it was opened, it was found that it had many defects and a large number of alterations, chiefly to the hot water system, sanitary arrangements and heating of the building had to be carried out while patients were in the house. This limited the usefulness for some time, but up to the end of the year 31 cases were admitted and treated there with satisfactory results. Most of the cases were Scabies and difficult children.

Before this "Sick Bay" was opened, Mrs. Vowles, formerly Matron of this Council's Isolation Hospital, very kindly assisted greatly by taking cases into her Nursing Home at Long Ashton. Twelve cases were treated there, and I am very grateful to Mrs. Vowles for her great help in this emergency. I also have to thank Dr. McLeod, Medical Officer of Health for Clevedon for his help in taking cases into the Clevedon Red Cross Hospital. 6 cases were treated there.

Steady progress in maintaining and improving where possible, the sanitary condition of the area continued satisfactorily, especially in housing matters, until the outbreak of War in September, which put a sudden stop to all demolition of insanitary dwellings and the building of new houses for the time being.

The services of the Sanitary Staff have had to be diverted to a considerable extent to other duties, such as Coal Control, etc., but the ordinary routine work has not been allowed to suffer in consequence, and a careful watch is kept for troubles that may arise from War conditions, and the influx of Evacuees and Military Forces.

I conclude this report by tendering my sincere thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Council for their continued confidence and support and to the Officers of the Health and other Departments for their able and willing assistance and co-operation.

I am,
Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) HERBERT NEWSOME.

5th November, 1940.

LONG ASHTON RURAL DISTRICT

<u>Parish.</u>	Rateable Value at 31st March, 1940.	Inhabited Houses <u>1939.</u>	Product of Penny Rate.
Abbots Leigh	£ 5,677	£ 149	23
Backwell	13,301	533	53
Barrow Gurney	22,297	73	92
Bishopsworth	10,775	598	42
Brockley	6,176	50	25
Clapton-in-Gordano	1,032	59	4
Dundry	3,731	233	16
Easton-in-Gordano	12,107	701	48
Flax Bourton	2,211	59	10
Kenn	884	72	4
Kingston Seymour	818	57	4
Long Ashton	32,643	842	125
Nailsea	12,063	718	48
North Weston	5,104	431	21
Portbury	6,150	120	25
Tickenham	3,483	169	13
Walton-in-Gordano	1,118	93	5
Weston-in-Gordano	894	40	4
Winford	5,376	293	22
Wraxall	6,402	334	25
Yatton	16,316	767	63
Totals	£168,558	6,391	672

Distribution of Notifiable Diseases in
the various Parishes in the area.

Names of the various Parishes in the Rural District	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Erysipelas	Enteric Fever	Anterior Polio-myelitis	Pneumonia	Whooping Cough	Meningitis	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	T O T A L S
	2	1	2	1	1	5	2	1	2	3	15
Abbots Leigh	2								2	1	5
Backwell		1									3
Barrow Gurney							1	1		1	5
Bishopsworth	2	2				1	6			3	15
Brockley								1			
Clapton-in-Gordano											
Dundry							1				1
Easton-in-Gordano	2		2						1	1	11
Flax Bourton									1	1	2
Kenn											
Kingston Seymour							1				3
Long Ashton				1	1						4
Nailsea		3	1					1		4	9
North Weston											
Portbury	2						2				4
Tickenham									1		1
Walton-in-Gordano											
Weston-in-Gordano											
Winford	13	4	2			2					21
Wraxall	13										13
Yatton						1			1	1	3
T O T A L S	34	10	5	1	1	20	10	1	13	5	100

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